

## NANTUCKET FIELD TRIP OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

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The New England Botanical Club held a field trip to Nantucket, Massachusetts on September 9–11, 1983. A diversity of habitats on this offshore island was visited.

Some of the more interesting species seen in the barrens were *Aster concolor* L. (in bloom and in Massachusetts known currently only on Nantucket), *Liatris borealis* Nutt., *Amelanchier nantucketensis* Bickn. (in good quantity though not known from the mainland), and *Hypericum adpressum* Bart. (at the Wigwam kettle ponds). Along Barnard Valley Rd. acres of *Corema conradii* Torr. were admired. Closer to the ocean (south of Bartlett Farm) the party searched unsuccessfully for *Agalinis (Gerardia) acuta* Pennell which had been collected in the vicinity at one time (now known from only three sites in its range). However, at this site were found *Linum intercursum* Bickn. (a few blossoms lingering), *Helianthemum dumosum* (Bickn.) Fern. (a few blossoms lingering), *Aletris farinosa* L. (in fruit), and *Prenanthes serpentaria* Pursh. These open sand plains (or “moors”) remain one of New England’s most intriguing plant communities but are threatened by continued advance of *Quercus ilicifolia* Wang.

Unusual examples of *Quercus velutina* Lam. and *Acer rubrum* L. with tortuous, spreading limbs were examined in low, moist woods in company with *Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh. and *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees. This locality was near Pocomo Road. About 1½ miles south of this site the party was led to locally rare stations of *Actaea rubra* (Ait.) Willd. and *Mitchella repens* L. in the vicinity of the Windswept Bogs owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. A particularly large specimen of *Ilex opaca* Ait. was growing nearby. In a thicket beside the dirt road that provided access to this area, one of the party found a new record for the island—*Pyrus sieboldii* Reg., a species that is naturalizing in eastern Massachusetts.

The disturbed site of the old Siasconset dump provided an interesting array of species including *Rhynchospora torreyana* Gray (one of two known stations in the state), *Solidago elliotii* T. & G. (in bloom), *Lycopodium inundatum* L., *Aletris farinosa* L., *Drosera*

*filiformis* Raf., *Platanthera blephariglottis* (Willd.) Lindl. (essentially past flowering), *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (L.) Ker and *Spiranthes cernua* (L.) Richard var. *ochroleuca* (Ryd.) Ames (in bloom).

A side trip to Low Beach along the southern shore of the island made by one member of the group turned up *Polygonum glaucum* Nutt. in great quantity.

In the immediate vicinity of the Nantucket Field Station (University of Massachusetts) *Baccharis halimifolia* L. (in bloom) and *Rubus bifrons* Vest flourished. This is one of the very few sites in New England where this latter alien species is known to be established.

Faunal rarities that highlighted the field trip were *Egretta gularis* (Western Reef Heron), a vagrant from West Africa, and *Speyeria idalia* (Regal Fritillary) which is now rare in eastern United States. Both were seen in the general vicinity of the Field Station.

All the new records for vascular plants found on the island during this trip are adventive species. These are *Buddleia davidi* Franch., *Clematis dioscoreifolia* Levl. & Vaniot, and *Pyrus sieboldii* Reg. Voucher specimens have been deposited with the New England Botanical Club herbarium (NEBC).

The Club is very grateful for the hospitality and generous assistance of Dr. Wesley N. Tiffney Jr., Director of the Nantucket Field Station. Thanks also go to Dr. Robert Zaremba for sharing his knowledge of ecologically interesting sites on the island.

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